Introduction of advanced passenger information system

2422. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed implementation of Advanced Passenger Information System (APIS) from October 1 this year to facilitate faster entry to foreigners visiting India;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the airports where this system will function, and the expenses to be incurred;

(c) the details of impact on security by this system, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A notification amending the Foreigners Order, 1948 was issued on 07.03.2005 to implement Advance Passenger Information System (APIS) from 01.10.2005 making it obligatory on the pilot of the aircraft/master of the vessel coming to India to provide prescribed information electronically about passengers on board to the immigration authorities in India within 15 minutes to taking off/leaving from the port outside India. APIS will function at all international airports in India. Expenses on communication and processing of the information will be born by the airlines and Central Government respectively.

(c) APIS will facilitate faster immigration clearance without compromising security.

Use of Hindi in Indian missions abroad

2423. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Department of Official Language is also taking care of use of Hindi in Indian Missions abroad;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard during last two years;

(c) whether Indian Missions abroad are also advised to encourage foreign countries to teach Hindi in their countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) to (b) An Annual Programme is prepared every year by the Department of Official Language to do official work in Hindi in which targets are fixed for the Indian Missions abroad also. Apart from this, a proforma of quarterly progress report has also been issued to the Indian Missions etc. abroad for monitoring the progress of Hindi. Review of the progress made in Hindi in the Missions is required to be done by their administrative Ministry (Ministry of External Affairs).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Ministry of External Affairs have prepared a consolidated scheme for teaching Hindi to the foreigners through Indian Missions abroad and for this purpose 10 Visiting Professors of Hindi have been appointed in various countries. With the cooperation of Indian Missions, some Indian Cultural Centres also conduct classes to teach Hindi. Indian Missions abroad remain in touch with local organizations, autonomous organizations etc. to meet their Hindi related requirements and provide free teaching material and financial assistance to them.

Crimes against kids

2424. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the media reports about increase in crime against kids;

(b) if so, the crimes committed against kids available as per the National Crime Records Bureau during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Andhra Pradesh State ranks eighth at the national level in crimes against children;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether it is also a fact that the situation has worsened this year as result of large number of child marriages; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken by Government to prevent child marriages in the country?